wherein the first search area and the second search area are of different sizes; and

wherein the size of the first search area and/or of the second search area is varied as a function of a predetermined picture quality, whereby the first picture block and/or the second picture block are/is coded.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the size of the first search area and/or of the second search area are/is varied as a function of a quantization parameter whereby the first picture block and/or the second picture block are/is quantized.

13. The method of claim 11 used for coding the digitized picture.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein variable length coding of the motion vectors is carried out; and a number of stored, different tables, in which codes for variable length coding are stored, are used for variable length coding.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein the tables are matched to the maximum length of the motion vectors.

16. An arrangement for motion estimation in a digitized image having pixels, comprising:

a processor which is set up such that the following steps can be carried out:

the pixels are grouped in picture blocks;

the pixels are grouped to form at least one first picture area and one second picture area;

first motion estimation is carried out in a first search area for at least one picture block in the first picture area to determine a first motion vector whereby movement of the first picture block is described in comparison to the first picture block in a preceding predecessor picture and/or in comparison to the first picture block in a subsequent successor picture;

second motion estimation is carried out in a second search area for at least one second picture block in the second search area to determine a second motion vector whereby movement of the second picture block is described in comparison to the second picture block in a preceding predecessor picture and/or in comparison to the second picture block in a subsequent successor picture;

in which the first search area and the second search area are of different sizes; and

in which the size of the first search area and/or of the second search area is varied as a function of a predetermined picture quality, whereby the first picture block and/or the second picture block are/is coded.

17. The arrangement of claim 16 wherein the processor is set up such that the size of the first search area and/or of the second search area are/is varied as a function of a quantization parameter whereby the first picture block and/or the second picture block are/is quantized.

18. The arrangement of claim 16 used in a picture coding device.

19. The arrangement of claim 16, used in a picture coding device,

wherein the processor is set up such that, variable length coding of the motion vectors is carried out; and a number of stored, different tables, in which codes for variable length coding are stored, are used for variable length coding.

20. The arrangement of claim 19 wherein the processor is set up such that the tables are matched to the maximum length of the motion vectors.

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 have been cancelled without prejudice, and claims 11-20 have been added. The new claims merely conform to matters of form of U.S. practice.